

# RAGING FIRE DESTROYS AD BUILDING

## *Students Salvage Vital Records; No Injuries*



# Contact

SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

VOL. 29 - NO. 4

RENSSELAER, INDIANA

FEBRUARY, 1973

## Campus Landmark Gutted In 8 Hours

Fire destroyed the 83-year-old Administration Building of Saint Joseph's College early Sunday morning, February 4. The blaze began sometime after 1:45 a.m. on the top floor of the 200-by-80 foot building and quickly destroyed the roof. Portions of the walls fell to the ground as 55 firemen from Rensselaer and nearby Remington and Francesville battled the blaze for more than eight hours.

No estimate has been given as to the amount of loss to the College, but an estimated 70 percent of the files and records were saved. "The alarm sounded at about 2 a.m. and just minutes later some 200 students were running in and out of the burning building helping firemen remove office furniture and records," reported Rev. Edward Joyce, C.P.P.S., chairman of the Theology Department.

Besides the offices of the president, registrar, development director, business department, academic dean, and admissions director, offices of some 40 faculty members were destroyed. Many of the faculty members—largely in departments of the humanities—lost books accumulated over the years, works of art, research material, and other possessions related to their teaching. Saint Joseph's College Trustee and former Indiana Congressman Charles A. Halleck lost much of the memorabilia collected from his years in Washington.

The status of the valuable records kept in the College Bank vault is unknown. Covered with tons of rubble, it will be weeks before the vault can be opened and the contents examined to estimate the College's total loss.

After a discussion with several administrative officers, President Charles Banet, C.P.P.S., announced the closing of the College until February 12. Plans have been implemented to transform Gaspar Residence Hall into offices for the faculty. Xavier Hall, the former dorm for seminarians, will house the administrative offices. (More photos on following pages.)



Scarred and blackened, the cornerstone stands as a grim relic of the fire.

## Students, Faculty, Friends, Government Help Saint Joseph's Rebuild Its Future

"The courage and assistance of our students and community firemen was absolutely fantastic," says Father Banet, as he looks back on the Administration Building fire and ahead to a renewed college community commitment to Christian higher education.

"Most noteworthy was the co-operation of students, faculty, administrators and firemen in keeping the blaze from spreading to nearby Gaspar Hall and our chapel," adds Father Banet. "Their help made it possible for the College to resume administrative operations within a day. The firemen worked throughout this bitter night and on through Sunday in keeping the fire from spreading and securing the safety of onlookers."

Jerry Gladu, Vice-President for Public Relations and Development, also praised the students' immediate assistance. "You would have to call this love of the College which motivated these young men and women to risk their lives rescuing ten tons of valuable records in 30 minutes while fire was burning just one floor above them."

More than 100 student volunteers gave up a one-week vacation to remain on campus, working 15-hour days, helping in the enormous task of relocating administrative offices in Xavier Hall and faculty offices in Gaspar Hall.

Student Association President John Petrila (sr.-LaPorte, Ind.), SA Secretary Dan Bradley (jr.-Cincinnati) and Staff Editor Larry Weil (sr.-Port Huron, Mich.) spearheaded the student efforts. Petrila supervised reorganization of files, Bradley handled cleanup and Weil administered loans to students so they could return home.

Area residents flooded the switchboard with offers of help, while local service organizations offered to initiate fund-raising projects and churches of all denominations indicated willingness to help in any way possible. Shocked residents swarmed over the campus Sunday afternoon, viewing the grisly skeleton of what had been a community landmark for 80 years.

"Immediate concern for our plight came from our Congress-

sional representatives," says Father Banet. "We have been in constant telephone contact with Senators Birch Bayh and Vance Hartke and Representative Earl Landgrebe. Through these men, and particularly Senator Hartke, Saint Joseph's has been effectively pointed in the direction of federal aid in our time of need."

Although the insurance on the structure was significant, the value of personal losses cannot be estimated. What are Saint Joseph's immediate plans?

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees will hold an emergency meeting on campus Feb. 16 to help plan immediate future strategy regarding academic and administrative operations and longer range development and public relations ventures. Another on-campus meeting of the Alumni Board of Directors is also scheduled soon.

"Once we have completed our study, we will most certainly look to our many alumni and friends for the generous assistance they have already offered," says Gladu.



... for the days of



*"Fire is a hazard. When it comes, it not only destroys existence." Those words were Joseph's College gym.*

*The flaming debris in the early hours of February 1968. Administrators who lost themselves. We look deeper into the important. No lives were*

*Students, faculty tried to save the structure. Joseph's trademark for boards. What's left? The desire to educate. The*

*The flames which ended the oldest building. A deeper understanding to a greater Saint Joseph.*

*At dawn a rubble heap. Something to stare at.*





# of Auld Lang Syne



azard that conjures up nightmares for college administrators. not only cripples a school's operations, but threatens its very words were used to describe a fire which destroyed the Saint gym in 1914. Today, that description applies to a new fire.

g destruction of Saint Joseph's Administration Building in the bruary 4, 1973, was a personal tragedy for the faculty and ho lost so much. But tragedies do tell us something about our-eeper into the meaning of things—we re-evaluate just what is es were lost—a blessing!

aculty, administrators, community firemen and volunteers all e structure which, along with the Twin Towers, had been Saint rk for 80 years. It's gone, just so many charred bricks and ft? That same dedication to the ideals of mankind. That same . That same need to fulfill a mission.

hich glowed in the Indiana sky that night told a twofold story—lest building on the College's campus and the beginning of a nding of ourselves as a community and an absolute commitment t Joseph's College tomorrow.

ed hulk stood where once the College lived. For many it was just e at



. . . for others it was a flood of memories and a rush of sadness.





# Alumni Class Notes . . .

## SORTING IT OUT

'22 **GERALD DURKIN** of Decatur, Ind., is working with the County Historical Museum in Decatur.

'26 **PAUL FORCHE** of Tulsa, Okla., was inducted to the International Softball Congress Hall of Fame and is currently serving as Vice-President and Administrative Assistant to the Executive Secretary of Phoenix, Arizona-based Basketball Congress International.

'35 **JOE NIENBERG** of Glandorf, O., has spent the last 20 years teaching and coaching in high school and is a member of the Ohio State Hall of Fame.

'42 **CHARLES HANKISH, JR.**, of Bluffton, O., has been a School Board member for six years and Board President for the last two.

'43 **J. NOLAN MATTINGLY** of Louisville, Ky., is completing his 20th year as a salesman with the Ames Co., a division of Miles Laboratory, Inc.

'48 **FRANK LUCISANO** has been elected vice president of ITT Cable-Hydrospace Division, National City, Calif.

'51 **DAN FELDHAKE** has acquired the dealership in Indianapolis for Ditto division of Bell & Howell Co., and will operate it under the name of Kridan of Indiana. **BOB CAHILL** of Chicago completed work for an M.A. in English linguistics and is now offering linguistic elective courses at Quigley. **HUBERT MILLER** of Edinburg, Tex., a professor at Pan American University in Edinburg, has authored a book **Church and State in Guatemala 1871-1885** which will be published in early 1973.

'54 **DR. RICHARD DOHERTY** of Mt. Vernon, Ill., is Chairman of the history and social science departments of Rend Lake College in Ina, Ill.

'55 **BILL FEELY** has been promoted to Director of Compensation and Benefits for the Zenith Radio Corporation in Chicago.

'57 **FRANK HIRSCH** is chief geologist for Testing Engineers, Inc., in Rockford, Ill.

'58 **EMIL JANC** is district representative for the C.M.I. Corporation and resides in Drums, Pa. with his wife and three children.

'59 **ED LABBE** of Somersworth, N.H., coached the Somersworth High School football team to the Division II championship. **ARTHUR DREA, JR.** has joined the law firm of Meatyard and Carlin in Bethesda, Md. **BOB SULLIVAN** is manager of Manpower Development of the Guide Lamp Division of General Motors. **ROBERT STEWART** has been a buyer for Sears Roebuck & Co. for seven years, and is living with his wife and two sons in Arcadia, Ca. **HENRY STUKENBORG** of Plymouth, Ind., is secretary and controller of Young Door Company and Management Information Officer for Ewin-Y Corporation, a Holding Company.

'60 **JIM HAGEARTY, II** of Glen Ellyn, Ill., has been appointed as Director of Marketing for Inlander-Steindler Paper Co. **DON SIDOR** lives in Rockledge, Fla. with his wife and four children and is in partnership with two other dentists.

'61 **DAVE BELL** of Parma, O., is a Technical Writer for the Instrument Systems Division of Gould, Inc. **AL NETT** has been Factory Sales Representative for the West Bend Co., for ten years. He is living in McHenry, Ill., with his wife and three sons. **MIKE MURPHY** of Woburn, Mass., is a teacher and head football coach at Woburn High School.

'62 **BOB ROSPENDA** is project geologist for Dames & Moore in Park Ridge, Ill. **TOM YATES** recently received his M.B.A. at DePaul University. Tom and his wife and two sons reside in Dolton, Ill.

'63 **DOUG DENO** has moved to Dallas, Tex., where he is a Technical Services Engineer for General Portland, Inc. **ED MAYER**,

JR. of Quincy, Ill., is a Ph.D. candidate in Philosophy at DePaul University.

'64 **PHIL BONELLI** has gone into private practice as a psychologist with the Glenwood Medical Group of Joliet. **ED JACHIMOWSKI** of Cicero, Ill., is Vice-President of Town Hall Savings & Loan Assn., and is owner of J & J Associates, an Insurance Agency.

'65 **FRANK ARVIA** of Oak Park, Ill., is Product Manager of Sears Roebuck and Co., in Oak Park. **DICK KEMPER, JR.** of Akron, O., is a senior Programmer for Roadway Express, Inc.

'66 **TIM CAVERS** has been named a Salesman for the Western Region of the Mead Corporation in Chicago. **DAVE GIOMETTI** of Griffith, Ind., is a Buyer for Sears Roebuck & Co., in Chicago. **BOB LOFFT** has taken on the duties of Director of Alumni Affairs for the University of Louisville.

'68 **TIM SEILER** of Evansville, Ind., has received an M.A. in English from Indiana U. in Bloomington, Ind.

'69 **WALTER PAYNE**, recently released from the Army, is currently working as a programmer analyst in scientific applications group for Bausch & Lomb Inc., in Rochester, N.Y. **JIM HOOTEN** of Denver, Colo., received an M.S. in Geology from the University of Illinois in August and is employed as an Exploration Geologist for Humble Oil & Refining Co. **STEPHEN FINN** is Assistant to the President of Fairleigh-Dickenson University in Rutherford, N.J. **PAT HITPAS** graduated from St. Louis University Law School in May and is currently employed as an Assistant Circuit Attorney for St. Louis Circuit Attorney. **RAY SIEGEL** of Ann Arbor, Mich., is presently a faculty member in the accounting and finance departments at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.

'70 **1ST LT. T. KEVIN GRIFFIN** is in Vieques, Puerto Rico, training for Caribbean deployment. **JIM RILEY** has recently joined an organization called Beer Can Collectors of America and is looking for twelve ounce cans not generally available in the Chicago area. These are for a bar he is building which, when completed, will have 984 cans with as many different brands as possible. Jim would be grateful if fellow Pumas could send him empties at 16505 George Drive, Oak Forest, Ill., 60452.

'71 **MARK FOX** of Wauwatosa, Wis., is a Respiratory Therapy Technician for St. Michael Hospital in Milwaukee. **BILL WATERS** of Glenwood, Ill., has been travelling throughout Europe for the past six months. **ROCKY CLEMENS** is owner and manager of Time Out Inn, a restaurant, cocktail lounge and package liquor store in Warsaw, Ind. **PHIL HEGEDUS** will receive an M.B.A. from Notre Dame in May.

'72 **DAVE MODEROW** of Oak Lawn, Ill., is employed with Burroughs Corporation in Chicago. **JOHN REAGAN** is a sales representative for International Harvester in Chicago. **JIM KENNEY** is attending law school at Case Western in Cleveland. **BILL KREFT** is employed as an accountant at Standard Brands in Chicago. **TOM BUCHKO** is a grammar school teacher in Monticello, Ind.

Picking up the pieces isn't easy. Records and files tossed out of windows in the mayhem of the night before had to be collected, sorted and recatalogued.

The more than 100 student volunteers worked with faculty and administrators to sort out the files, set up administrative headquarters in Xavier Hall, and get the College going again.



The reclamation and reorganization of files saved from the flames proved to be a long and arduous task.



The manpower necessary for the rapid transition from college dormitory to administrative offices was provided by more than 100 student volunteers.



A decidedly smaller version of the Ad Building it replaces, Xavier Hall is now the new center of administrative activities.

## MARRIAGES

John W. Hancock '60 of Hobart, Ind., and Elizabeth Ryan, Aug. 19.

George C. Draai, Jr. '65 of Chicago, and Barbara Hauck of Chicago, Nov. 11 in Milwaukee, Wis.

Kevin P. Joyce '66 of Chester, Pa., and Joyce McKinney of Swarthmore, Pa.

John Parthum, Jr. '67 of St. Clair Shores, Mich., and Marianne Moeller, Aug. 19.

Paul A. Miller, Jr., '69 of Batavia, N.Y., and Patricia Kuebler of Hamburg, N.Y., Nov. 10.

Daniel E. Bryan, Jr. '71 of Chicago, and Janet Fabianski '74 of Chicago, in May.

Dennis Sievers '72 of Vincennes, Ind., and Celeste Rueve '73 of Racine, Wis., Jan. 1 at Green Bay.

## BIRTHS

To Mr. and Mrs. James Brennan '53 of Memphis, Tenn., their fifth child, James Damian, Sept. 4.

To Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Prusak '56 of Baltimore, Md., their third son, Jeffrey Scott, Oct. 23.

To Mr. and Mrs. Roger A. Peterka '56 of Anaheim, Ca., their seventh child, Jennifer Diane, June 6.

To Mr. and Mrs. John T. Sheahan '60 of Elmwood Park, Ill., their first child, Carol Ann, July.

To Mr. and Mrs. Edward Golumbeck '63 of Highland, Ind., a daughter, Amy Elizabeth, Oct. 20.

To Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Smith '63 of Palatine, Ill., a daughter, Jennifer Lea, Nov. 14.

To Mr. and Mrs. Phil Bonelli '64 of Alsip, Ill., their third daughter, Susan Ellen, Aug. 15.

To Mr. and Mrs. William D. Dyke '67 of Lisle, Ill., a daughter, Lori Jennifer, Sept. 16.

To Mr. and Mrs. Kurt P. Neumayer '67 of Wheaton, Ill., a daughter, Kristin Michelle, June 20.

To Mr. and Mrs. Philip Datka '67 of Germantown, Wis., a daughter, Jessica Mary, Sept. 26.

To Mr. and Mrs. John E. Brouch '68 of Midlothian, Ill., their first child, Patricia Eileen, Sept. 13.

To Mr. and Mrs. Dennis F. Zielinski '70 of River Grove, Ill., their first child, Michael, Sept. 9.

To Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Michael '70 of Defiance, O., a son, Patrick Steven, Oct. 27.

To Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hegedus '71 of South Bend, their first child, Jeffery, Sept. 8.

To Mr. and Mrs. Al Morandi '72 (Rennee Primeau '74) a daughter, Gina Marie, Dec. 19.

## DEATHS

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Raphael D. Rodgers '15 of Springfield, O., passed away Dec. 10.

William J. Luley '20 of Fort Wayne died Nov. 10 after a month-long illness.

Mosa D. Sphire '35 of Brandenburg, Ky., died Nov. 28 of a heart attack.

Charles F. Reed '51 of Arlington Heights, Ill., passed away Jan. 2.

SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

# Contact

Published four times a year (February, May, August, and December) by Saint Joseph's College, and entered as second class matter March 4, 1972, at the Post Office at Rensselaer, Indiana, 47978, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

VOL 29 - NO. 4 RENSSELAER, INDIANA FEBRUARY, 1973

DENNIS G. LAVERY, Editor